



**M. Jodi Rell**

GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 1, 2009

The Hon. Donald E. Williams Jr.  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Room 3300, Legislative Office Building

The Hon. Christopher G. Donovan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Room 4106, Legislative Office Building

Dear President Pro Tem Williams and Speaker Donovan:

Thank you for your letter of today.

The adoption of a balanced and responsible two-year budget continues to be my highest priority. That budget must not only help the families and employers of Connecticut through these unprecedented times but also ensure that our state is positioned to make the most of the economic recovery that will inevitably follow.

While you note that there has been "some progress" in negotiations, that progress has regrettably been painfully slow and pitifully small. The simple fact is that I proposed \$1.6 billion in spending cuts in the budget recommendations I delivered on February 4 and offered an additional \$1.3 billion in cuts last week. To date, after countless meetings over six weeks, Democratic negotiators have agreed to just \$58 million in cuts for Fiscal 2010 and \$134 million in cuts for Fiscal 2011 – a fraction of my proposals that I am hard-pressed to positively characterize as "some progress."

I am also aware, of course, that the Appropriations and Finance committee chairs have discussed with you and sought your approval or disapproval for each cut I have proposed. Thus you have already considered and explicitly rejected the vast majority of my proposed cuts.

It seems you are still wedded to a staggering tax increase – \$3.1 billion, even after cuts of \$58 million and \$134 million are taken into account – on the families and employers of Connecticut. I have said time and again that I will not consider tax increases until significant cuts in state spending are made – and \$192 million hardly meets that criterion. When you show a genuine willingness to make deep and meaningful cuts in spending, I will gladly sit down with you.

It is not enough to talk of compromise, bipartisanship and a willingness to work together. Deeds must match words. Thus far they have not. Two more days remain in this legislative session. I encourage you to pass a budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Rell".

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor